Muslim groups disown Pamatong

By Christian V. Esguerra

Bro. Eddie back to pulpit, FPJ followers to streets

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Monday, June 28, 2004 • 42 pages | vol. 19 | no. 201

Assassins kill outgoing mayor of Bohol town

By Joanna Napallacan
PDI Visayas Bureau

Royal guests, VIPs to attend inaugural

Davide to swear in GMA in 'frugal, simple' rites



By John L. Javellana, Tessa V. Quismundo and PDI Visayas Bureau

"FRUGAL" and "simple"—two words being used to describe the forthcoming inaugural of the 14th President of the Philippines—do not apply to the guest list.

New gov't agenda must carry nat'l revival theme

By Amando Doronila

ANALYSIS



Scrabbling for victory easy for nat'l Scrabble champion

By Frank Cimatu
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau



Obesity: Enter the food police?

Palace says it's clueless about Napocor petition

By John Lubag-Javellana and Marlon Ramos

US to train more Pinoy troops

Hiding in mountains

4th leg of swing

US to stay committed

Party-list group to initiate House probe of polls

Criminal liability

Misuse of gov't funds

Palace washes hands of race for Senate, House leadership

By Juliet Labog-Javellana and Christine O. Avendaño

MALACAÑANG yesterday pronounced its usual hands-off policy in the battle for the Senate presidency and the speakership of the House of Representatives.

In an interview with RMN radio, presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said that talks about the Senate presidency or House speakership were an internal matter for Congress to deliberate.

"The President respects the independence of the two Houses ... If she has a personal opinion on these matters, maybe she will keep it to herself," he said.

Administration sources confirmed an INQUIRER report last month that the Senate leadership would be a battle between current Senate President Franklin Drilon and Sen. Manuel Villar Jr.

Villar has numbers

One source said that while Drilon still had the President's sympathy, Villar had eight allies in the administration majority, enough to propel him to be the next Senate President. They include his colleagues in the Wednesday Group, namely, Senators Joker Arroyo, Ralph Recto and Francis Pangilinan, Senators-elect Miriam Defensor-Santiago, Pia Cayetano-Sebastian, Richard Gordon, Ramon "Bong" Revilla and Lito Lapid.

A Palace official, who asked not to be named, said that in the event of a stalemate between Drilon and Villar, term-sharing could be arrived at as a compromise.

For the outgoing Senate term, Drilon and Sen. Rene Cayetano had an agreement to take turns at the Senate presidency, each one serving half or one-and-a-half of the three-year term. But Cayetano died before he could serve his term, thus Drilon stayed on.

The Palace official added that this early, a struggle was brewing between the camps of Villar and Drilon on whether to settle the Senate presidency within the majority bloc or to court votes from the opposition.

"The Villar group wants a vote within the majority because there is a clear majority of 14 (pro-administration senators) in the Senate," the official said.

Key committees

The Drilon group wants to have "13 of all senators." This means the majority candidate could link up with the minority. In return, the minority would be given key committees. This could result in a legislative gridlock, but maybe it won't, since the administration has 14 senators against the opposition's nine.

Administration Senator Arroyo believes that the first majority senator who could get eight of his colleagues over to his side would end up the next Senate president.

"The 12th Congress has a razor-thin majority... It's a different story with the incoming 13th Congress. A ruling coalition is no longer needed to elect the Senate president because of the clear and commanding majority in the Senate," Arroyo told the INQUIRER in a phone interview.

When Congress opens its session on July 27, there would be 14 majority senators and these are Drilon, Villar, Arroyo, Senate President Pro Tempore Juan Flavier, Majority Leader Pangilinan, Senators Ramon Magsaysay Jr. and Recto, and whoever is finally declared between Senators Rodolfo Biazon and Robert Barbers, as well as incoming Senators Defensor-Santiago, Mar Roxas, Cayetano-Sebastian, Gordon, Revilla and Lapid.

The eight minority senators are Edgardo Angara, Aquilino Pimentel Jr., Serge Osmeña III, Luisa Ejercito-Estrada, as well as incoming Juan Ponce Enrile, Jinggoy Estrada, Alfredo Lim and Jamby Madrigal.

Sen. Panfilo Lacson is considered an independent.

One week later, more questions than answers in Greenhills gunplay

By Christian V. Esguerra

ONE WEEK after the shoot-out at Greenhills, many questions remained unanswered and the mystery deepened.

Granting that the camp of 14-year-old Anjelo Elton Yap didn't fire a single shot as it claimed, who then shot and wounded Ryan Jaworski?

Was it possible that the group that was reportedly with two police colonels at the Saisaki restaurant when the shooting happened had shot at the warring youths?

Police on Saturday admitted they could not yet provide any answers, primarily for lack of complainants and witnesses.

"Nobody wants to testify even if many people saw the incident; there's an offended party but nobody wants to complain," Senior Supt. Eric Velasquez, Mandaluyong police chief, told the INQUIRER.

Who shot who?

Velasquez said investigators had taken the official statements of four witnesses. But none of them could tell exactly who shot who because they all took cover when the shots rang out.

"For sure, the groups of Jaworski and Yap know what really happened but they're both presenting their cases only before the media," he said.

The INQUIRER on Saturday night talked to two witnesses to last Monday's shoot-out.

'War of the rich'

One of them said the incident happened right in front of him but he refused to elaborate, saying he didn't want to get caught in the middle of a "war of the rich."

This was how the other witness recalled the incident.

Shortly before the shoot-out, two "big cars" were seen cruising east-bound on Florida Street which is just behind the Saisaki restaurant. A restaurant employee took down the plate numbers of the vehicles, suspecting that car thieves could be on board.

Minutes later, two other cars arrived from the opposite direction and two "big guys" alighted.

"*Ano ba*(What's up)?" the witness recalled the two shouting to those from the first vehicles.

The witness said he later learned that the two were with the Jaworski group. The guys in the first two vehicles belonged to the Yap camp, he said.

Shots then rang out and everybody took cover, the witness said. The guy who had taken down the plate numbers hid behind a Mitsubishi van. It was around 8:30 p.m.

First there was a series of single shots, probably from a pistol. Then came a burst of gunfire, probably from an M16 rifle, the witness said.

Regular customers

It was then that approximately six men who were allegedly with the group of Senior Superintendents Nicanor Bartolome and Benjamin Landrito inside Saisaki drew their guns and headed out of the restaurant.

Bartolome and his group were reportedly regular customers of Saisaki.

"They told the employees to shut the kitchen gate and not to let anybody out," the witness recalled. "They returned after nearly an hour."

The witness could not tell, however, if anyone from Bartolome's group had fired a shot.

Velasquez said the Yaps had made the allegation that Jaworski, who was hit in both legs, had in fact been shot by the Bartolome group.

He urged them to file an official complaint against the policemen so the Mandaluyong police could start an investigation.

'Looking for scapegoats'

But another ranking police official involved in the investigation said the Yaps "made the allegation only to save their necks."

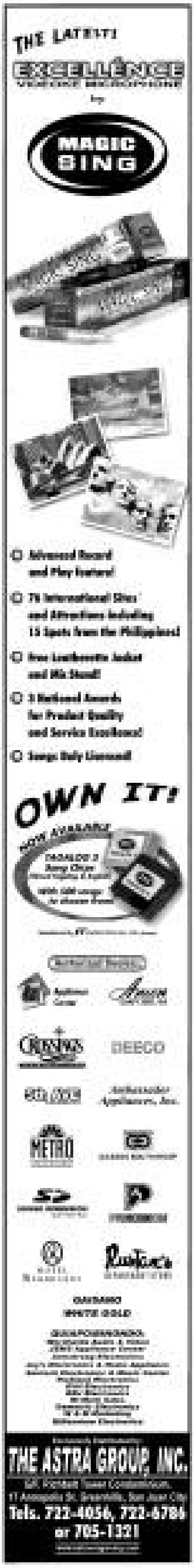
"They're just looking for scapegoats when in fact they're involved in the shoot-out," he said on condition of anonymity. "It's clear in our initial findings."

Bartolome on Saturday maintained that no one from his group had left Saisaki during the shooting.

"Our instinct was to take cover," he told the INQUIRER. "We went out to check only after about 10 minutes, when the shooting had ceased. By then, the parties had already fled."

As of yesterday, neither Jaworski nor Yap had been examined for gunpowder burns and no gun had been subjected to a ballistics exam.

Even if any of them volunteered for a paraffin test, Velasquez said, the test would be a waste of time. It would not be conclusive since gunpowder residue leaves the skin as early as one hour after shooting a firearm, he said.





Chavez assails gov't inaction in cases vs GMA

Read, folks advise Senator Jinggoy

Rude GSIS staffers, beware





SEN. Manuel Villar, left, receives the 2004 Most Distinguished Alumnus Award from Jaime S. de los Santos, president of the UP Alumni Association.

Villar named top UP alumnus

Antidrugs board joins cyberspace

SUERTRES 2 8 2
SUPERLOTTO 6/49 3 15 15 18 25 49
METRO

Monumento park causes traffic jams

Official cites various flaws

By Margaux C. Ortiz

Convergence

Detachment

Improvements needed

'Couples' pack QC Circle

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

23rd anniversary

Catholic overseers

Regular meets

Stiff fine awaits motorists with MMDA special plates

By Margaux C. Ortiz

P5,000 fine

Forged signature

No comment

Avenida walkway faces irony of having little parking space

By Tarra V. Quismundo

RP seeks custody of maid raped in Kuwait

Kuwaiti cops sentenced

Pinoys escape violence in Iraq





The WORLD

Double car bomb blasts kill 40 in Iraq



Iraq rebels threaten to kill 3 Turkish hostages

Turkey 'never gives in to terror'

Israel kills top militant leader, 5 others in ambush

India, Pakistan begin talks to resolve Kashmir dispute

Pakistan PM resigns

Minority rule looms in Canada



Mongolians ride horses, camels to polls



The Daily Gospel

Supreme Court Doctrines

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OPINION

Abalost

EDITORIAL

NOW that the election season is finally over, it is time for the chief of the Commission on Elections to step aside. Chair Benjamin Abalos has squandered his mandate and thus undermined the credibility of the electoral process. He should go.

It is a tribute to their ability to discern that a clear majority of Filipino voters still trust the Comelec as an institution; but only a minority, about a fourth, say they have "much trust" in Abalos.

The charitable thing is to say he is out of his depth, a politician lost in the electoral labyrinth. On election day, for instance, a sick Abalos showed up at the Comelec's main office, his spectral presence illuminated by his doctor's attendance. It was a pathetic sight; he may have intended to show that he was still in charge or that he was still hard at work, despite his medical condition, but all he managed to do was prove his irrelevance. Other election officials finally prevailed on him to go home and get some rest.

The harsher verdict is to say that he is in bog heaven, a politician given control of the electoral process. For instance, his lack of the vote totals for president and vice president, as listed in the certificates of canvass used to proclaim the winning senators, couldn't have been anything but deliberate. It put the opposition on the defensive, even as they were still preparing for the canvassing in Congress. Strictly speaking, the leak wasn't illegal. But it was clearly political.

It may have been his nature as a veteran politician that initially recommended him to the position. His predecessor, Alfredo Benipayo, now the solicitor general, was a by-the-book lawyer, often outmaneuvered by the [illegible] clique (the four commissioners appointed by President Joseph Estrada). Abalos' appointment to the Comelec was welcomed in some quarters, precisely because he seemed to possess the qualities needed to put the clique in its place: political experience, political skill.

Well, that is exactly what the country got. Instead of a civil servant's attention to detail, we got an obsessive chair's sweeping statements about preparation and duty and grave responsibility. Instead of a distinguished lawyer's measured language, we got a practiced politician's PR spin.

Abalos' reaction to the closely reasoned decision of the Supreme Court voiding the controversial automation contract, for instance, was to affect a look of pained innocence. Even as the high court detailed the many violations, Abalos argued—if that is the appropriate term—that there was nothing wrong with the contract because the Comelec only had the public interest in mind.

In the first days of the official campaign period, Abalos and his men arrested several campaign workers, who were caught putting up posters outside Comelec-designated areas. Abalos was shown on TV lecturing the violators—and then letting them go. He may simply have been moved by pity; the campaign workers were ordinary people, trying to eke out a living. But by indulging in a high-profile publicity campaign, showing the arrest of the campaign workers on TV and then forgiving them their trespasses, Abalos managed to mix his message, spectacularly.

Here was an official who could run after violators, but chooses not to.

Under his watch, the Comelec suffered serious reverses: the billion-peso automation project (failed), the billion-peso voters' registration initiative (failed, even by the Comelec's modest objectives), the first-ever absentee vote (failed, given the law's high expectations).

It is nothing short of a political miracle then, that despite the high-level intrigue that had sapped its strength, despite the evident lack of full preparation, the Comelec was able to push through with the conduct of the elections. Most of the credit should go to the commission's rank and file, and to the thousands of teachers who turn out, every three years, to teach the most important of all civic lessons. They achieved it all, in spite of Abalos.



'Iyo ang Cebu, akin ang Luzon'

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

THE ISLAND of Luzon will be practically left to the opposition [illegible]

[illegible]

Flight of fancy

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

[illegible]

Mike A. away from controversy

Political Tidbits



Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

[illegible]

The invisible citizen

Kris-Crossing Mindanao



Antonio J. Montalvan II

[illegible]

The inauguration in Cebu

The Long View



Manuel L. Quezon III

[illegible]

'Precious space'

Readers' Advocate



Raul J. Palabrica

[illegible]

News choices

[illegible]

News value

[illegible]

They Said

Fake

[illegible]

OPINION

Graduated tax on text

Patriots in the post-election setting

Admirable servant spirit of 'Way Kurat'

Back to the basics

Where are our priests?

Across the **NATION**

DENR: Forest guards getting old

100,000 more trees for Palawan

Sugar workers push for wage increase

Church backs drivers' bid for smaller jeep fare hike



It's pili nut cracking today in Sorsogon City

Radio program of militant group ordered stopped

Sorsogon hospital renamed after donor Fernando Duran

Muslim groups disown Pamatong



PAMATONG

[illegible]



Royal guests, VIPs to attend inaugural

'Very austere'

The program

Instant facelift

Party sponsors

Bro. Eddie ...

Leave of absence

Communist turned preacher

Enduring vision

New gov't agenda must carry nat'l revival theme

New dawn

Building of cathedrals

Opponents' agenda

Pointless quibbling

3 primary tests

Palace says it's . . .

Militants cry blackmail

Consumers will suffer

Napocor defends plan

Stop Napocor

Power trolls

Assassins kill outgoing . . .

Obesity: Enter the food police?



Huge financial cost

Case against industry

Scrabbling for victory ...

Top world player

Balanced track

Lawyer

Gov't support



Bumgarner, 2 other RP karters triumph





Arnis bets 2nd with 17 golds

Parica seeks another chance at glory



It's Barakos, Kings . . .

SPORTS

Ongpin Cup: Empire King strikes back



UST tossers take Game 1 in 5 sets





It's Barakos against Kings for Fiesta title



UST, DLSU take Game 1 /A26











3rd Big City youth games under way



UST tossers take Game 1 in five sets

Why there's no officiating gridlock in the PBL

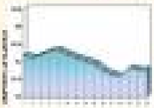
Bare Eye



BUSINESS

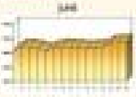
LRTA proceeds with ₱2.5-B bond offer

CURRENCIES



STOCK MARKET

Sluggish trading seen anew



BIR pushes crackdown on tax cheats



KAZAKHSTAN CONSUL

LOW-PRICED MEDICINES

Unilab to put up P1-B plant in Laguna

RP eyes half of market for call center services



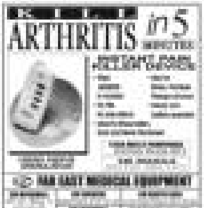


Gov't to raise tax collection to 13.7% of GDP in 2005

Gov't defers action on steel firm's petition



SPV law extension sought



Big businesses, Filipino consumers enjoy big savings at Harbour Centre Port

Lower shipping and distribution costs mean lower lower prices for consumers, resulting in bigger savings and more sales to businesses.











Business

MVP eyes SMC anew

Cocktales

Victor C. Agustin

Heard through the grapevine

Sale of 70% of gencos seen by mid-2006

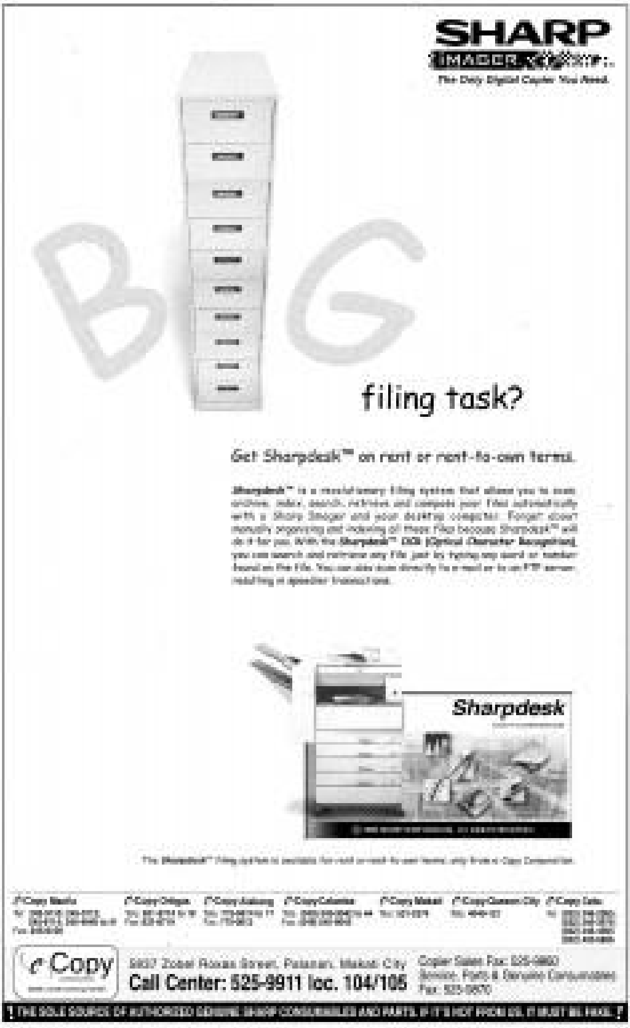


MANPOWER CUT, DEBT RELIEF

Vitarich sees return to profit

G & W

Sluggish trading . . .



Excise tax indexation

No Free Lunch



Cielito F. Habito

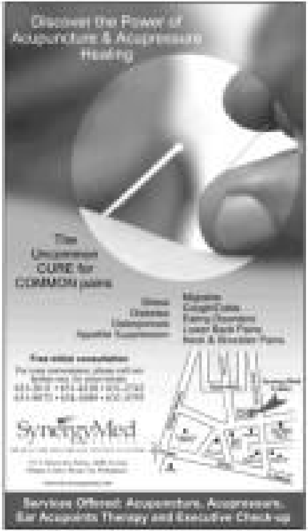
Specific vs ad valorem

Why we need more taxes

Why we don't need more taxes

BIR pushes . . .

New markets for RP chicken, other poultry products eyed



Hotel management firm gets fresh funds

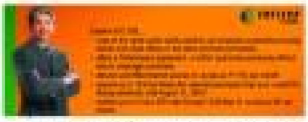
The Bridge Program few want to cross

QUESTIONS OF POLICIES



5 WTO nations to oppose RP restrictions on rice imports

Unilab to put up . . .





GenSan gets boost in bid to become Asean hub

Small but concrete steps for Mindanao



DoE offers 16 wind power sites



MEDIUM-TERM AGENDA

BSP wants more authority to investigate erring banks

BDO to cut bad assets by 25-30%

PSE to settle clients' claims with brokerage

LIFESTYLE

MONDAY ARTS • TUESDAY FITNESS • WEDNESDAY 2BU
THURSDAY FOOD • FRIDAY HOME & FASHION • SUNDAY SURPRISES



Vatican official praises Philippine Church's cultural heritage campaign

THE CARDINAL with Regalado Trota Jose in UST

Cardinal Marchisano says cultural patrimony is a tool for evangelization and a check to globalization

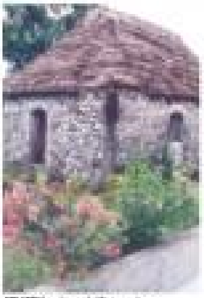
Unparalleled







Batanes has a garbage dump near a beautiful village and a resort that seems ashamed to be in the Philippines. But the rewards outweigh the negative



Why you should go back to Batanes



Artist plumbs the mystique of the mystical









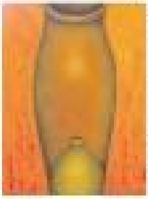


Binary art at Mag:Net





Nikulas Lebajo explores new concepts, colors







Healthy lifestyle spurs light beer's rise



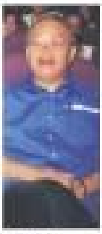
FACULTY and students of UST's Cultural Heritage Studies program clean up cultural artifacts.



EXPERTS from UST Center for Conservation of Cultural Property and Environment in the Tropics restore a painting.



FR. Isidro Abaño, O.P., secretary general, UST, guides the cardinal through the 'Pintados' exhibit of various places that had been 'culture-mapped.'



BOHOL Bishop Leopoldo Tumulak



CARDINAL signs the guest book of the Center for Conservation of Cultural Property and Environment in the Tropics, while his adviser Dr. Cristina Carlo-Stella looks on.

Vatican official praises . . .

From page C1

and followed well." He added that when he assumed the presidency and started writing to bishops inquiring about the Church's cultural property, they were at a loss on what he was talking about.

When Bishop Leopoldo Tumulak, chair of the CBCP Committee on Cultural Patrimony, wrote Marchisano in the 1990s, as a matter of courtesy, to join the Philippine conference on church cultural property, the cardinal immediately accepted.

Tumulak later expressed surprise that the Vatican official accepted. Marchisano later said the conference proved the Philippines was "a good example to be followed."

The "example" would include restraining the clergy from damaging cultural property needlessly. It seems the CBCP committee is doing its job well.

In the case of the Taal Church, Fr. Ted Torralba, executive director of the CBCP commission, wrote to the parish church, the late Bishop Jose Salazar, O.P., to raise the concern about the damage that the planned construction of a Perpetual Adoration chapel beside the church might cause to the ancient limestone structure. Torralba said the construction was stopped.

The cardinal said that his experience shows the cultural heritage of the Church is a key to understanding people. But people must be taught to take care of their sacred and cultural treasures, he added.

Heritage school

"One of the things that is very important to do is create a school to give an example, that it is necessary to prepare the people for the important task," Cardinal Marchisano stressed.

This is why he welcomed the establishment of the UST Center for Conservation of Cultural Property and Environment in the Tropics (CCCPET). The center is headed by Fr. Isidro Abaño, who is also UST secretary general and UST Museum of Arts and Sciences director.

The CCCPET was inaugurated last year as an organized body of all cultural heritage concerns in UST, Asia's oldest university. It aims to be the leading centre and pioneer in multi-disciplinary heritage conservation in the country.

"As prime examples of tangible and intangible cultural heritage, the university has historic monuments on campus," Abaño said. "When it comes to tangible and movable cultural heritage, the contents of the UST archives and museum are significant."

But since research and scholarship have a lot to do with conservation, the CCCPET was organized. It is connected to the Master of Arts in Cultural Heritage Studies program of the UST Graduate School, which has recently been named an institutional member of the Asian Academy for Heritage Management under the Unesco and the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property, the only Philippine school to be so accredited.

Abaño said the CCCPET is devoted to conservation in the tropics "because, in order to preserve an object or monument, its surroundings must also be properly preserved."

He added: "Considering that there are different types of environment in relation to factors such as climate, humidity, light, elevation and temperature, the center concentrates on the tropics because it is where research is actually conducted."

The cardinal then viewed projects undertaken by the experts of CCCPET and the students of the Cultural Heritage Studies program. The projects were featured in the exhibit titled "Pintados" at the Thomas Aquinas Research Complex.

The researches involved the cultural mapping of Taal in Batangas, Los Baños in Laguna, San Miguel in Bulacan, Puerto Galera in Mindoro, Zamboanga and Quiapo.

Eric Zerrudo, consultant to the Cultural Heritage Studies program, said that the heritage of a place "is the memory of the landscape."

"It encompasses history, structures, traditions, rituals, festivals, skills, personalities, memorabilia, food and literature," he explained. "Each element of the heritage fabric of a place contributes to the identity of the people."

Cardinal Marchisano praised the efforts of the Church and UST to promote and conserve the cultural heritage of the Church.

"I am happy to be here, I am touched," he said. "What I have seen is commendable example of the gifts of the Philippines and the Eastern world."

Repertory's art for children



By Joy G. Virata
Contributor

PROFESSIONAL theater for young audiences has grown in popularity all over the world as communities see the need for developing appreciation of the arts in young children. Still, as Moses Goldberg, artistic director of Stage One, one of the most successful children's theaters in America, puts it, "Society in general fails to understand what the arts can do for children. When we give children good art, we are teaching them to think and feel."

This is what Repertory Children's Theater (RCT) has tried for the past 13 years to do: give children good art.

Children get a sampling of the visual arts in the color, texture, and design of sets and costumes. They hear light classical music so different from the rock and pop that sometimes are the only music they know. They see a bit of classical dance mixed in with jazz and interpretive movement. They listen to a classic story being told in English.

First experiences in theater must be good ones. Children must have an experience that they will remember and want to repeat as they grow older.

RCT has insisted at working to give young people the best in theater. Some of the best in the business have worked with the RCT: directors Baby Barredo, Joann Sebastian, Michael Williams and Lisa Infante; choreographers Douglas Nierras, Donna Cabal-Aquino, Anton Perez, James and Lizel Quiñones, and Jaime del Prado; set and costume designers Miguel Faustmann, Jay Herrera, Oliver Bonus (now US-based), Edgar San Diego, Lisa Infante, and Liz and Benny Batoctoy; lights designers Hamed "Shoko" Matsumoto and Martin Esteva.

Costumes are always an RCT focal point. For the next production, "Pinocchio," Liz Batoctoy has once again been commissioned to wield textures and colors in creating unconventional designs in her usual artistic way.

Out-of-the-ordinary—even grotesque—costumes fire the children's imaginations and help them accept as real whatever else is less than real on stage.

Equally important

Magical sets and props are equally important. Set designer Johann Quinsaybing must create comic-book sets, a now-you-see-it-now-you-don't fairy and a mischievous eye-winking whale that swallows Pinocchio.

Part of RCT's success has been its ability to rely on Jay's experienced set-construction. Prop-maker Benny Batoctoy has made, among other things, a beast that turns into a prince, singing and dancing rose bushes, a pumpkin that turns into a coach, and dancing cups and saucers.

For "Pinocchio," he must produce a wooden puppet that turns into a real flesh-and-blood boy, a nose that grows and a boy who turns into a donkey and vice versa.

The choreography must not only move the story along but must reflect the humor of both situation and character. Jaime del Prado has been tasked to choreograph and stage the musical numbers.

But even with all these, the attention of the audience—sometimes composed of as many as 800 4-8 year olds at one time—could wander were it not for the skill and experience of actors. Mature actors are often more effective than a child at characterizing a story for children (unless that child has exceptional talent like Lea Salonga) and have the stamina and concentration needed for long-running productions, in costumes that are often very cumbersome.

So, for "Pinocchio"—children's roles will go to grownups and (with one exception) Pinocchio will be played by girls. Veteran actors Liesl Batucan and Bam Jimenez will alternate in the lead role with newbies Bianca Bitero and Cara Barredo.

Actors Nicolo Manahan, Von Lozada, Jejie Esguerra, Markus Serra and dancer Fil Tirso all play younger boys. Only one, Hans Dimayuga, will play his age and only on weekends.

RCT productions meld Filipino musical and artistic talent with American and British playwriting. This musical version of "Pinocchio" is an original production of the Prince Street Players and adapted by Jim Eiler, with music by Eiler and Jeanne Bargy, a CBS network production of which received a special Emmy Award in 1966.

In the Philippines, art has taken a beating as a result of world events and national economic woes. The arts have the lowest priority in national and corporate budgets. They are the first to be slashed off in times of trouble.

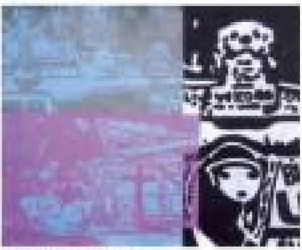
The good news is that parents and teachers are increasingly appreciative of rare opportunities to expose children to good art. And the children keep coming.

It is because of them and for them that the RCT exists. If children can be exposed to good art in their most informative years, then, maybe, someday we will have more thinking and feeling adults.

"Pinocchio" opens at Rep's Globe Theater at Onstage in Greenbelt 1 on Aug. 7. Call 8870710.



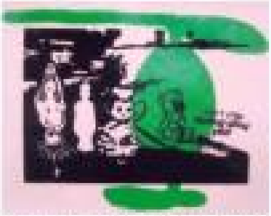
RTC's production of "Sleeping Beauty" (1995)



"BUCKLE UP: Pictorial with Dog"

Tweaking the icons

By Constantino C. Tejero



"CRAFT" Stop Thinking About You with Pink and Light Green"



'Reformat' at Astra, Tioseco at Ricco-Renzo

Visual Arts





